



National Park Service News Release

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Liesel Fenner with New England Foundation for the Arts Receives National Park Service Conservation Hero Award

Liesel Fenner, program manager for the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), received a National Park Service (NPS) Conservation Hero Award, Friday, July 16, in Washington, D.C., during the “Public Art: Civic Catalyst,” conference, cosponsored by the Americans for the Arts and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

Sam Stokes with the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program presented the award to Fenner for her role in developing and coordinating the Art and Community Landscapes program, a partnership launched in May 2002 between NPS, NEFA, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Art & Community Landscapes, which is administered by NEFA, is an artist residency program that addresses local and regional conservation concerns through site-specific public art projects that may include temporary art installations, exhibitions, interpretive media, festivals, or other works. Project sites are identified through the NPS RTCA Program. Once selected, each artist works as part of a team with the NPS, community partners, and local citizens to implement the site-specific project for up to one year. Artists are currently working with RTCA Program staff on community-based conservation projects in California, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

“Liesel Fenner is to be commended for her outstanding dedication to the Art and Community Landscapes program, which supports our nation’s rich tradition of artists who inspire landscape conservation,” said NPS Director Fran Mainella. “The National Park Service looks forward to continuing this partnership with the arts community in pursuits that help preserve and restore ecologically vital areas.”

“Liesel Fenner has put incredible energy, expertise and heart into Art and Community Landscapes,” said NPS Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust. “Thanks to Liesel and the New England Foundation for the Arts, our goal of integrating the work of artists with NPS staff in community projects has been a wonderful success. At every curve, crossroad, and bump along the trail she has been there—to encourage, to offer experience, and to lend a hand. On behalf of the National Park Service and our many community partners across the country, we extend to her sincerest thanks.”

The NPS RTCA Program works with local communities and citizens groups to preserve open space, conserve rivers, and develop trail and greenway networks. More information is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.

NEFA’s mission is to creatively support the movement of people, ideas, and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, make vital connections between artists and audiences, and build the strength, knowledge, and leadership of the region’s creative sector. The Art and Community Landscapes program addresses local and regional environmental concerns by funding site-specific art projects and artist residencies. Artists receive grants to work in pre-selected regions across the United States. More information is available online at: <http://www.nefa.org>.

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